

# ADVANCED MITIGATION CONCEPT FOR THE EASTERN CORRIDOR

The Eastern Corridor is a comprehensive vision of places and communities connected environmentally, socially and economically.

This vision calls for a new concept in transportation and land use planning, where economic development and mobility needs are balanced with community character and transportation facilities are planned and designed in such a way to support important land use goals including protection of ecological, cultural and historic resources.

It is clear that communities in the Eastern Corridor recognize the importance of **green infrastructure** - a strategically planned and managed network of natural areas, conservation lands, and working lands with conservation value that supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to the health and quality of life for communities and people.

The green infrastructure network encompasses a wide range of landscape elements:

**natural areas** - such as wetlands, woodlands, waterways, floodplains, hillsides and wildlife habitat;

**conservation lands** - such as public and private nature preserves, open space, greenways, and parks; and

**working lands** of conservation value - such as forests, farms, and nurseries, as well as utility areas such as storm water management facilities.

Green infrastructure is an essential component of the advanced mitigation concept protecting important ecological, cultural and historic resources while supporting the corridor-wide economic development strategy.

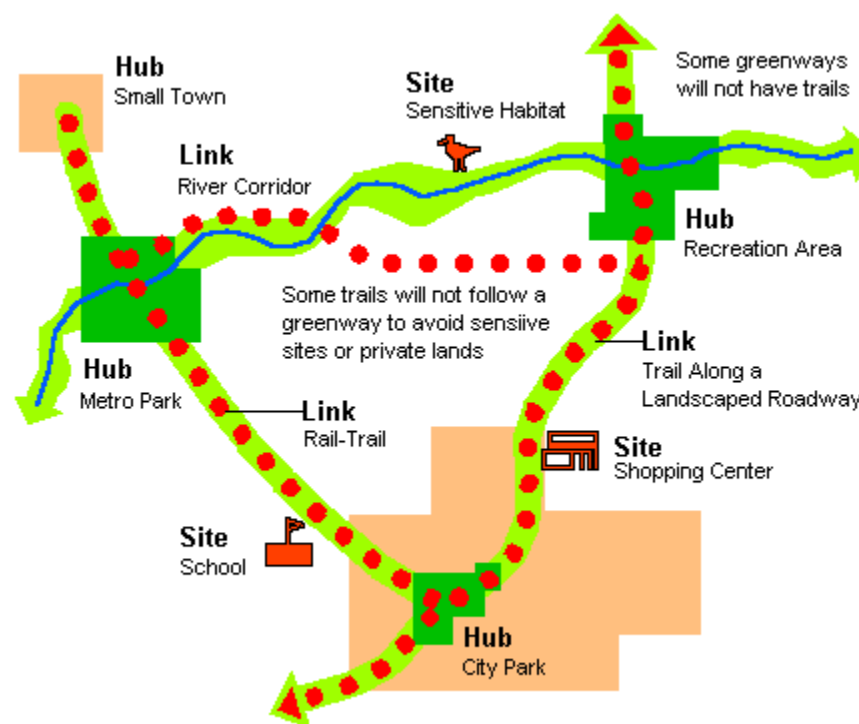
## Anatomy of a Greenway System

A greenway network can be distilled to three basic parts:

**Links** are the heart of the greenway system providing connections for people and wildlife.

**Hubs** are the anchors of the system that provide a base of destination for people and wildlife.

**Sites** are smaller features than hubs that serve as points of interest, origins, or destinations.



Source: Ohio Greenways  
<http://www.ohiogreenways.org>

## Advanced Mitigation Concept

Advanced mitigation (*mitigation projects undertaken now in anticipation of future transportation project impacts*) should be implemented during the early stages of transportation planning.

By taking a proactive approach to mitigating impacts to the environment, high-quality sites that are under threat now can be protected:

1. Identify and select the best available sites for habitat and wetlands mitigation during the early planning process before transportation projects are implemented.
2. Integrate habitat conservation and water quality protection with advanced mitigation strategies as elements of the corridor-wide green infrastructure.
3. Integrate parks, cultural and historic sites with advanced mitigation strategies as a foundation of the greenway system.

By going beyond the minimum regulatory impact mitigation requirements, this advanced mitigation plan is an important part of the comprehensive approach to community development that puts resource protection into the overall corridor funding and financial strategy.

In an area such as the Eastern Corridor, with significant redevelopment potential, strong community expectations, and regionally important natural resources, it is the best way to plan and design effective and responsive transportation components that can support and catalyze larger goals.